

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, March 18. 1710.

IN speaking of the late Mobbs, and the Difference between them and the former Rabbles that have happen'd in this Nation: I cannot but observe, that as 1. It differs in the People it was compos'd of. So, 2. It differs in the People pointed at——All the Rabbles of former Times have been aim'd at something oppressive, something invasive of common or special Right, or at something illegal; such have been the Tumults at the Revolution, Mobbs upon the Nefts of Vileness call'd Bawdy-Houses——Rabbling the sham Prison of wrongfully lifted Men, mobbing Pick-pockets, Kid-nappers, and the like.

But this Rabble rise upon the Laws, mobb'd the very Constitution, and rabbled the Government—Toleration to the *Dissen-*

ters is a Parliamentary Establishment, a Condition on which the Revolution was founded; and as it has in vain been attackt in Parliament, and has had her Majesty's constant Protection with her Royal Promise of preserving it *Inviolable*, so it was a direct mobbing the QUEEN and Parliament. Sure never Rabble made an Attempt like this, nor was it suitable to the Temper of the People of *England*; *English* Mobbs have often risen upon breaking the Laws and Denials of Justice, or Interruptions of the legal Course of Things; but to the Honour of the *English* Nation, I must say, generally speaking, her Mobbs have been always in the Right; Captain *TO M* has not often been in the Wrong.

It

It is true, and pray, *Gentlemen*, take me right; Mob in itself is always wrong; all Rabble is a National Lunacy, and I abominate the Method—No Man shall have it to say, that the *Review* is for encouraging Tumults—For tho' some mad Men are not equally mischievous with others, yet all Madness is a Bereaving of rational Powers, and dangerous in its Effects; so all Rabbles and Tumults, however well aim'd, have their Dangers, their Irregularities, and run the Risk of being fatal.

But it does not follow, because I am not for Rabbles on any Account, but that I may distinguish between bad and worse, and that's the Work I am upon; for of all the Rabbles that ever were in *England*, at least that I have heard of, this was the most brutish, the most bloody; mov'd with the least Reason, rais'd with the least Provocation, carry'd on in the worst Manner, and with the worst Design.

3. Let us next examine who this Mob was rais'd for, and still the same will appear; for the *QUEEN* says, the poor deluded People that were drawn in to huzza and hallow, and hardly knew why, for the *QUEEN*; and therefore when the Guards fell upon them—the poor Wretches were amaz'd—*The Guards!* says one of the poor simple Fellows, how can that be, *the QUEEN is of our side?* Mistaken senseless Creatures, *the QUEEN on your side!* The Devil was on your side, that's certain—But the *QUEEN* and a Tumult both of a side! Why, it is a Kind of Treason to imagine so. But I shall enquire into this Delusion hereafter.

Well then, *it was for the Church!* Bless us all, the Church, how can that be! It was the Church that gave the Toleration to *Dissenters*; to mob the Meeting houses, is to fly in the Face of the Churches own Act and Deed—The Church! It is the Church that prosecutes *Dr. Sacheverell*, it is a *Church House of Commons* that impeaches him, a *Church House of Peers* that judges, and no doubt will condemn him—And no question but you will see the Church spue him out; so that it cannot be for the Church this Mob was rais'd—No, no, the Church of *England* is establish'd by Law,

not by Rabble; she seeks the Protection of the Law, not of the Mob—She is guarded by the Sword, in the Hand of Legal Authority, not in the Hand of usurping Captain *TOB*. 'Tis plain, this Rabble was against both Church and Meeting-house, and consequently against the very Protestant Religion; against Laws, Parliaments, Justice, and the Sovereign; and in this, most manifestly different from all that ever went before it.

4. The next is a most difficult Enquiry; viz. *Who this Mob was rais'd by*—Indeed, I wish, some honest Friends to Truth would come in, and let us know this—The Office of an Informer would be no Reproach in a Case so vilely, scandalously, and abominably carry'd on; I cannot but own, I am averse to cruel Punishments, and tho' it is true, the sorry Wretches taken in the Fact, in breaking up Houses, pulling down Pews, &c. merit the Gallows, and may by our Laws be hang'd for Example—Yet this does not reach the Case; they are poor unhappy Sacrifices to the Villany of the Authors, and I pity them from my Soul. 'Tis the Contrivers, the Exciters, the Stirrers up of these Tumults are the Incendiaries; if These could be found, I should say to our Judges, as the Scripture says of the Murderer, *Thine Eye shall not spare him, neither shalt thou have Pity*—But as for these poor deluded Creatures—Their Punishment indeed will be just, and perhaps in its Kind necessary; but it will not reach our Case—It is a Part of, but will not be the effectual Cure—Well, we must let Justice go on, no doubt but it will find some of them out still, or Heaven will perhaps infatuate them, so as to let them discover themselves by some farther Act of Villany, that may bring them into the publick Hands of the Law; for there are a Sort of Criminals who must be hang'd, and will be hang'd, almost in Spight of Human Conduct; and if they cannot bring themselves to it one Way, they will another—Who, as the *Islanders* suggested of *St. Paul*, when the Viper fastened upon him, having escap'd from Human Justice, yet Vengeance suffers not to live.

I shall conclude this Subject in my next.

M I S.

MISCELLANEA.

I Am not often preaching up my self to you, *Gentlemen*; but in this Case who can forbear? Had my Name been *John Partridge* the Antient, had I been an Almanack Maker, of the Race of *Willy Lilly*, or of Old *Gadbury*, and had predicted half so happily of Things before they come to pass, as I am now going to note to you, I would have been recorded for a Conjuror, or sent to *Newgate* for a Witch.

I know, many People have of late made themselves Famous for Prophecy, especially some that have told us of Things after they are come to pass—And some have of late rais'd their Names something higher still, by Prophecy, what really never could come to pass—But I that never troubl'd you with any of my Visions, nor have yet enter'd my Claim to the Spirit of Prophecy; that am not a Pretender to Inspiration, and I hope, can never be charg'd with any thing Enthusiastick, do however fairly challenge all your Prophets, all your Almanack Makers, Second-sight Men, Witches, and Dreamers of Dreams, to tell me, or to tell the World, what they should call the Instance I am now to give you, of a *Review* or two written in *October* last, being N° 88 and 89 of the present Volume.

In N° 88, I had been speaking of the spreading of the Plague from *Dantzick* over the rest of *Europe*, and of the Fears *Holland* and *Britain* were both in at that Time, of the Infection spreading hither.

Here I said these Words—*That I am persuaded, God will not at this time (this Year) visit this Nation with this Plague.*

And yet that most Part of *Europe* shall be visited with it in a few Years.

Much of this has been seen already, and the first Part of it has prov'd true exactly, as to *England*—Yet this is no Part of the Prophecy I pretend to.

N° 89, I am speaking of the Prospect there was then of a War in the North, by the *Muscovite*, *Pole*, *Dane*, and *Prussian*, falling upon the King of *Sweden's* Dominions.

There I reminded you of a *Review*, Vol. V. N° 80, in which I had spoken, call it prophetickly or what you will, of the King of *Sweden*, in these Words—*That if the King of Sweden pursu'd his Design upon Muscovy, he would be UN-DONE in the End; and that his PIPER would lead them such a Dance, that he would find it difficult to get back again—How exactly this has been fulfill'd, I refer to you all.*

Yet neither is this the Prophecy I now lay Claim to—*But now be pleas'd to observe me—*In the same *Review* I am speaking of the great Services done by the *Swedes*, under *Gustavus Adolphus*, to the Protestant Religion, and how the Dominions of the *Swedes* in *Germany* are to this Day a Curb upon Popery on that Side; how far the Influence of *Sweden* govern'd the Religious Balance of Power in *Europe*, and not only how unjust, but how impolitick it would be, to pull the *Swedes* down as a Nation—And after a great Deal of this, too long to repeat, I say these Words positively.

The War now in View is against the Swedish Nation, to dispossess them of their Dominions in Germany, to weaken their Influence in Europe; and in this, pardon my assuming, and forbear your Censures till the Issue; THEY SHALL NOT PROSPER. The Claim is not from Heaven, the Success of it stands opposite to the Protestant Interest in Europe, and the Blessing that supports that Protestant Interest cannot, it SHALL NOT attend it.

Again,